Vol. 2. Numb. 32.

# Heraclitus Ridens,



AT

A DIALOGUE between *JEST* and *EARNEST* Concerning the *TIMES.*

From Tuesday November the 16th. to Saturday the 20th. 1703.

*Jeſt.* SO -- Mr. Gravity, you are a fine Gentleman indeed, not to meet according to Appointment---- *Heraclitus* is two Gallons of Tears the worſe for it, and had not I found out an Expedient to divert him otherwiſe, he had been ſo dry by this time, that you could have extracted no more Moiſture from him, than the *Chymiſts* can from a *Caput Mortuum.*

*Earn.* I expected to be Chid, and am come provided for it--- But if Reaſon is of ſufficient force to prevail with you, I bring ſuch a one along with me as may juſtly plead for my Excuſe. Company--- Dearly Belov'd Company is what I know you expect, and I have had ſuch Company, Friend of mine, ſuch Half-Crown Wine, and for ſuch Ends as you will be to ſeek for without my Information.

*Jeſt* A Murrain take your Company and your Wine too, though my Mouth waters at the laſt; Give the Town the Cauſe of your Sin of Omiſſion laſt *Saturday*, or the next thing we ſhall hear of, will be a *Lamentable Elegy upon the Death of* Heraclitus. Every body has given him for loſt, and a certain eminent Lawyer has pronounced him a *Felo de ſe*, and has learnedly made it appear from Statute Law, that for that Cauſe he ought not to have the Benefit of his Clergy.

*Earn.* He has ſitten at the Feet of *Gamaliel* for ſome purpoſe, for I can't ſee for what end one that was beyond a Condition to Read ſhould be put to the Book. But to Anſwer your Interrogatory. I met with ſome Perſons unknown, at a Coffee-Houſe near the *Royal Exchange*, who being made acquainted with my Name by the Vender of the ſooty Liquor, would needs take a Pint with me at *Guy*'s, which having no Antipathy to, I comply'd with their Requeſt. Quarts ſucceeded Pints, and Gallons Quarts, till I thought it high time to take my leave of 'em, in order to get up at my acuſtom'd Hour the next Morning, to meet you and the Old Man; But I was over-rul'd, and they would not part with me, till it was too late to do any Buſineſs, and I found *Nob*'s pretended *Presbyterian Plot* was turn'd into a real one againſt me, but I ſhall know 'em for the future, and to make 'em ſo to others, they do not live a Mile from *Lime-ſtreet*, as I am inform'd ſince, and are to be ſeen at *Batſon*'s Coffee-Houſe at the Hours of Two in the Afternoon, and Seven in the Evening. Now, dear Boy, let me hear how you diſpoſed of *Heraclitus?*

*Jeſt.* A pleaſant Stratagem, truly---- And you like a plodding Fellow could not countermine it! Had I been there, I would have found 'em out in the twincling of an Eye; All the Strength of their whole Party's Hypocricy ſhould not have conceal'd 'em from me. Fye upon you; part with an Ounce or two of *Honeſty* for the like weight of *Cunning*, till then, you will never be a Match for 'em. Tho' it is hop'd the Publick will pardon an Eſcape, that will make us be upon our Guard for the future. But to let you know how *Harry* and I diſpoſed of our ſelves, we took a *Turn* or two in *Weſtminſter-Hall*; where the firſt Object that preſented it ſelf next to *Nob*'s Publick Entry with his Body-Guard of *Tars* at his A--- was a tall Gentleman with Pockholes in his Face, that talk'd ſo Loud, and ſo little to the Purpoſe, and that tortur'd the Judges and his Clients ſo at once, as it was doing Penance to hear him. What's here to be done, cry'd *Harry*? Nothing, ſaid I, but Men will talk Nonſenſe while there is no Act of Parliament to the Contrary, and this Man has *Ten Shillings* for doing that, which the Client ſhould give him *Twenty* to let alone. With that the old Fellow gave him a Grin for his Pains, which was more than the Value of all the Law he was Maſter of, ſo we left him. We had ſcarce gone a Step farther, when we met Abundance of Gentlemen, who had nothing to do but to Walk there like Sergeants at *Wood-ſtreet* Compter in Expectation of ſomething; and among the Reſt, a Prime Councellor, who had been Ten Years call'd to the Bar and in all that Time never had the Opportunity of making a Motion but Once, and that too in *Forma Pauperis.* Hah! *Such a Man living*, ſaid he, *as your ſelf?* With his Hat to a Hair's breadth of the Faſhion. *Prithee what old Gentleman is that with you? If he wants Law, I'll ſell it him as Cheap as any in all the Market, for it's a Commodity that is Dead at this Time of the Year, when we expected it ſhould bear the higheſt Price, and will be tainted if it lies long upon our Hands.* He talk'd in the Plural Number, tho' he was in the Singular as to his Caſes: We are come upon another Concern, reply'd I, and are neither for Clergymen's nor Lawyer's Diviſions and Subdiviſions at this time; if we had, we ſhould not apply to you, for fear we might go without 'em. The Stiff Spark was ſomething nettled, ſtrove at a Witty Reply, but could not get it out of his Mouth for the Soul of him, and ſo we left him to look *Cogitabund*, and make Grimaces by himſelf, to take Notice of the Brethren of the Long-Robe. *Heav'ns bleſs us*, ſaid Thick-Head the Firſt, with a Solitary Breviat and Grief in one Hand, and Sorrow in another, *Never certainly was ſuch a Term as this, not a Bond have I but this ſingle Client's, that has been Sued out ever ſince laſt Midſummer, we muſt look out for another Employ, no ſuch Thing as a Judgment now in Being, which put me in mind of a Female Sexton, who was Complaining to me after this Manner; When I ask'd her the State of her Health.* Lord Sir, ſaid ſhe, *How can I or my Family be well, when we had all this Week but ſix Burials, which ſhew'd the Tokens of Humanity in a marvellous Manner.* The Sexton and the Lawtyer are much the ſame, only with this Difference, the Firſt buries People when they are Dead, but the Laſt buries 'em Living, makes 'em play at Hide and Seek in ſuch a manner, as the Benefits of Life are utterly loſt to 'em; and what has been ſaid of the *Whore*, may be ſaid of her humble Servant Mr. *Split-Cauſe*, He will *bring* thoſe that deal with him to a *Morſell of Bread.*

Thus much in Part of our *Saturday's Obſervations*, you may expect the reſt at another Opportunity.

# *From* Saturday *Nov.* 20, *to* Thurſday *Nov.* 23.

*Jeſt.* DID not I tell you *Nob* would one day or other come to Preferment? He has found at laſt what thoſe Broad Shoulders of his are fitteſt for, and now is making Intereſt to be one of the City Coal-Heavers

*Earn.* If I miſtake him not, you are not of his Privy-Council. Obſerve him in his laſt but one, and you'll find him the ſame Perſon ſtill, undermining the Church under the Pretence of *Building it up*, and caſting Reflections on the Members of it, that are the Honour and Ornament of the *Engliſh* Nation. And if ſuch a Fellow as this be tolerated to tell the Attorney General his Duty, and openly Accuſe him in Print for Stifling Parliamentary Proſecutions, Farewell all manner of Reſpect to the Government Eſtabliſh'd, for 'tis in Effect to blame the Queen, ſince he is Suffer'd to Aſperſe the Miniſtry She has made Choice of

*Jeſt.* That Honourable Gentleman may pay him in his own Coin for it one Time or other; and tho' he has made the beſt of his Way from the Bailyffs, the Hand of Juſtice may yet reach him, and he may wiſh that a *certain Proſecution* may be ſtifled, notwithſtanding his Expreſſing himſelf to the contrary as to that of another. But what is more Surprizing than all this, and even Superior to his own Impudence, is, that he has the Forehead to make his Countryman ſay, *That* Nob *and He Contributed as much to the Support of the Government as any Great Men in the Kingdom.* Out upon him for an Arrogant Knave; I wonder the Serjeant at Arms Attending the Houſe, has not Whiſper'd a Word in his Ear; for there is neither Peer nor Commoner, but is highly Affronted by his Audacious Aſſertion.

*Earneſt.* All this proceeds from the Licenſiouſneſs of the Preſs. Where there is no ſettled Superviſor, there Matters may eſcape that are worthy of the higheſt Precaution; and till the Printing Trade is brought under the ſame Regulations as it was in ſome paſt Reigns, thoſe that are Enemies to Religion and Loyalty will make of it to their Diſadvantage. But theſe are Affairs that fall under the Direct Notice of thoſe in Authority; and it is not our Buſineſs to diſcuſs Matters that Concern the Gentlemen in a Sphere ſo much above us; tho' we are not to ſeek for a Plea for Preſcription, and *Nob* has pointed out the Way for ſo doing more often than once. I am for what is Diverting as well as Inſtructive; and tho' it is neceſſary, next we ſhould trace this Malignant through all his hidden Windings of Inveteracy and Ill-will to the Church and Government Eſtabliſh'd, it is but likewiſe fitting, that poor *Heraclitus* who is daily in Tears to ſee the Contrivances of their Enemies, ſhould have ſomething to laugh at by way of Change and Variety. What ſay you, Has the Man got his own Mare again? Has the Brief ſucceeded which was order'd to be drawn-up at the laſt Aſſembly of the Saints?

*Jeſt.* To a Miracle. Matters were carry'd Swimmingly amongſt them, and after ſome Tranſitory Queries, which are as follow, they came to the Reſolutions which ſucceed 'em.

*Qu.* 1. Whether it be not a great Reproach to the Brethren, to have their Pious Secretary outwitted by a prophane Dancing-Maſter? And whether it be not a *Judgment* juſtly fall'n upon his Head, for having Dealings with one whoſe Trade is not made mention of in holy Scripture?

*Qu.* 2. Whether if they ſhould ſink among the Chief of 'em what had been Collected for him, he would not turn Cat in Pan with the Party? And whether he had hitherto been Dabling at making Diſcoveries by way of *Revenge*, or from a true Motive of *Principle?*

*Qu.* He had done well in his late dark Account of *Coals*, to mention *Paul's Duties* in it; and whether there were not Grounds to Suſpect him in another Intereſt, than that of the Diſſenters, for his Endeavouring to Increaſe the ſaid Duties, which were given by Act of Parliament to rebuild an Edifice call'd a *Cathedral*, that was to be rais'd in oppoſition to their way of Worſhip?

*Qu.* 4. Whether the more Coals are Imported, the Duties enſuing from 'em, do not the more advance the ſaid Building? And whether it be not highly prejudicial to the Cauſes of Reſiſtance and Diſobedience to ſtand up in Defence of a Tax levied upon the Subject to build Churches with?

*Reſolv'd*, That no one of the Saints can be a Reproach to another, otherwiſe than in not Endeavouring to put a Trick upon thoſe of a Contrary Perſwaſion; and that *Nob* has comply'd with the Intentions of this Committee to a Tittle, in doing what in him lay to fruſtrate all manner of Reſtitution.

*Reſolv'd*, That if they ſhould be ſparing in their Contributions; the Powerful Inducements of that Heidelberg Tun of Fleſh, might be too hard for the Spirit? And that if it be for the good of the Party, a Diſcovery made by way of *Revenge*, is as meritorious as that of a *Principle*.

*Reſolv'd*, That the Thanks of this Committee be given him for his great Skill in Levelling the moſt Learned of the *Twelve Apoſtles*, with the moſt Ignorant of the Brethren, and that he have the Title of Saint beſtow'd upon him, for his great Humanity in Robbing St. *Paul* of it.

*Reſolv'd*, That to do Evil that Good may come of it, is aggreable to the Doctrines of our Paſtors and Teachers; and that it will be of uſe to this Aſſembly, to build Churches, if we can but do as our Forefathers did, make uſe of 'em again for Conventicles and Stables.

*Reſolv'd*, That Sir *Chriſtopher* may go on with the Repairs of his Churches and Steeples, as long as *Nob* is ſuffer'd to caſt an Odium upon thoſe that are for the Advancement of God's Glory, and that while we can but get a Majority in the Veſtry, we care not a Farthing for what the Man in Black ſays in the Pulpit.

*Reſolv'd*, That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that foul Purpoſes ſhould be wrapt in ſpecious and fair Diſguiſes; and however unnatural our Deſign is, that it be Tag'd with the Welfare of Her Majeſty's Perſon and Government.

*Reſolv'd*, That thoſe who had moſt of the Publick Moneys ſtick to their Fingers in the laſt Reign, are the fitteſt to have the Adminiſtration in this, and that tho' Three or Four Great Men cannot alter the Conſtitution of a Kingdom, it is not impoſſible but they may Impoveriſh it.


ADVERTISEMENT.

*TO be ſeen at his Maſter's Chambers in the* Temple, *or over a Pot of* Yorkſhire *or* Burton-Ale *at the* Hercules Pillars *in* Chancery-lane, *a* Welch Monſter, *who can prove from the* Hebrew *and* Chaldaick *that Scrubbing is the only Remedy for the Itch. If any young Gentleman has a Mind to turn Atheiſt, or be Inſtructed in the falſe Principles of* Spinoſa, *he is at their Service for a Single Gage, and rather than not ſhew his Impudence and Ignorance, for a* Penny Dram of Brandy. *He Talks more* Latin *than he does* Engliſh, *and more* Engliſh *than he underſtands. As an Inſtance of his Great Abilities in Teaching the Learned Languages, the Kitchin Wench has been brought by him to underſtand him when he calls for a* little more Carrot to his Boil'd Beef *in* Greek; *and the Boy runs down the Cellar Stairs, as if he would break his Neck: When he cries, Boy----* Another Pint of the beſt Yorkſhire *in* Arabick; *And that the World may know what Diſcoveries he has already made in the Art and Myſtery of* Self-Murder no Sin, *he has made one Gentleman that ſhall be nameleſs, hang himſelf, and is at other People's Service to do the ſame by them; when if he would be his own Executioner, the Society of Reformers would meet with leſs Obſtruction in putting in Force the Laws againſt Immorality and Prophaneneſs.*


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